

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

The rejections and objections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

1. Entry of the response filed December 31, 2003 is noted and appreciated.
- 2-3. Claims 1-5, 7 and 16-18 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,338,215 to Lee et al. (hereinafter "Lee").

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a socket connector that includes:

“a housing that includes a socket receiving aperture having a center axis and formed by a housing wall;

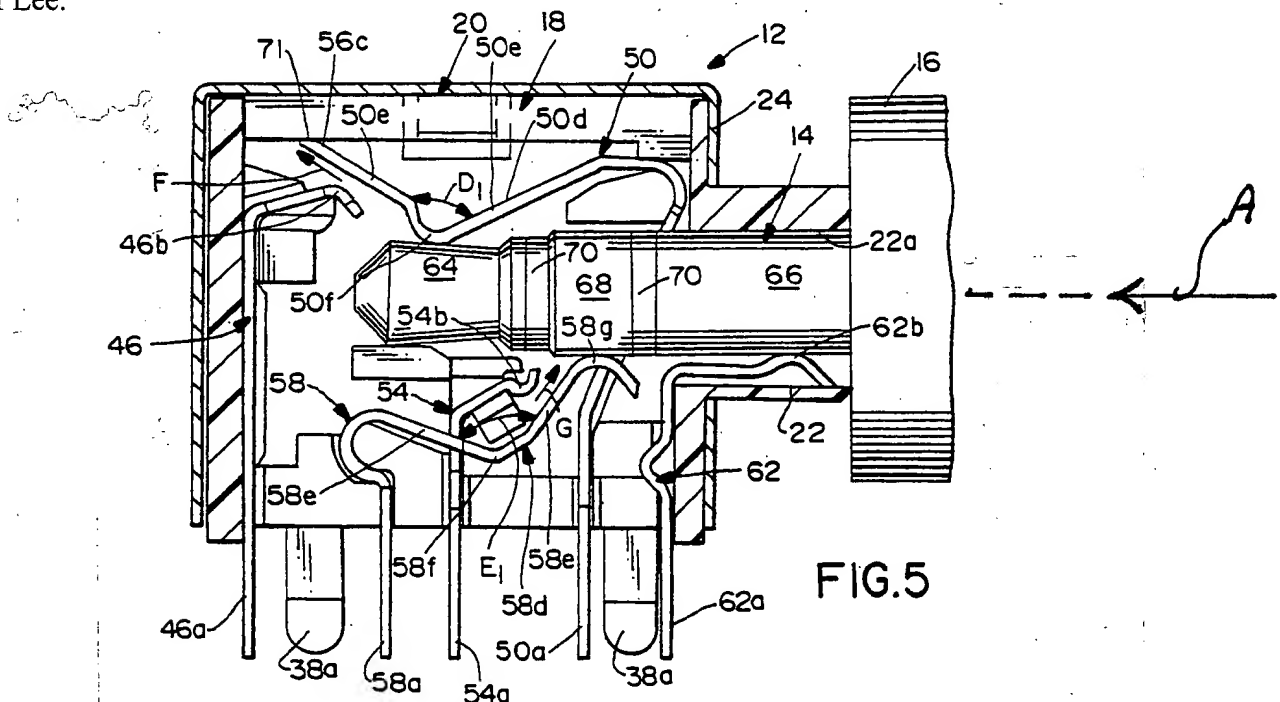
a U-shaped first contact part mounted within said housing and including first and second walls that are nominally parallel and separated by the center axis;
and

a second contact part mounted within said housing to nominally contact said U-shaped first contact part in order provide an electrical connection between said first and second contact parts, wherein when the plug connector is inserted along the center axis into said socket receiving aperture said first wall flexes radially with respect to the center axis breaking the electrical connection between said U-shaped first contact part and said second contact part.” (cl. 1, emphasis added).

The connector recited in claim 1 includes first and second walls that are nominally parallel and separated by the center axis. The Official Action contends that the U-shaped first contact part reads on element 50 of Lee (see Official Action, pg. 2). However, a fair and proper reading of Lee reveals that element 50 is a first movable signal terminal (see Lee col. 4, lines 6-9). The Official Action further alleges that the claimed first and second walls as set forth in claim 1 read

on “(50e, portion between 50a and the upper curved portion before 50e)” and that these walls are separated by the receiving aperture axis A disclosed in Lee. This rejection is improper for several reasons.

As set forth in the preceding paragraph, the Official Action alleges that the claimed first and second walls as set forth in claim 1 read on “(50e, portion between 50a and the upper curved portion before 50e)” and that these walls are separated by the receiving aperture axis A disclosed in Lee (see Official Action, pg. 2). A copy of FIG. 5 of is reproduced below for convenience, and has been modified to include the receiving aperture axis A as shown in FIG. 1 of Lee.



Notably, as shown above, the receiving aperture axis A of Lee clearly DOES NOT separate elements 50e of Lee, which are disclosed as a pair of legs. Lee discloses “[t]he cantilevered spring contact arm is configured to have a dog-leg configuration to define a pair of legs 50e joined at an apex 50f to define an angle “D” between the legs.” (Lee col. 4, lines 55-55). As shown in FIG. 5 above, the receiving aperture axis A clearly does not separate elements 50e of

Lee. That is, Lee fails to disclose “a U-shaped first contact part mounted within said housing and including first and second walls that are nominally parallel and separated by the center axis;” (emphasis added, cl. 1).

In addition, the connector of claim 1 recites that the first and second side walls are nominally parallel. However, based upon the construction of Lee set forth in the Official Action contending that the first and second side walls of claim 1 reads on elements 50e, Lee is incapable of disclosing the claimed feature that “a U-shaped first contact part mounted within said housing and including first and second walls that are nominally parallel and separated by the center axis;” (emphasis added, cl. 1). As shown in the figures of Lee, elements 50e disclosed therein are never parallel. Specifically, as shown in FIG. 5 of Lee reproduced above, the legs 50e separated by the angle D are certainly not parallel, and appear to be arranged in a configuration approaching perpendicular.

A 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection requires that a single reference teach each and every element of the claimed invention. For at least any of the reasons set forth above, Lee is incapable of anticipating claim 1.

Claim 16

Claim 16 recites a socket connector that mates with a plug connector to establish an electrical plug connector assembly. The socket connector includes:

“a housing that includes a socket receiving aperture having a receiving aperture axis and formed by a housing wall;

a U-shaped first contact part mounted within said housing and including first and second walls that are nominally parallel and separated by the receiving aperture axis; and

a second contact part mounted within said housing to nominally contact said U-shaped first contact part in order provide an electrical connection between said first and second contact parts, wherein when the plug connector is inserted along the receiving aperture axis into said socket receiving aperture said first wall flexes radially with respect to the receiving aperture axis breaking the electrical

connection between said U-shaped first contact part and said second contact part.”
(emphasis added, cl. 16).

Again, similar to the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, Lee neither discloses nor even suggests “*a U-shaped first contact part mounted within said housing and including first and second walls that are nominally parallel and separated by the receiving aperture axis*,” (emphasis added, cl. 16). The pair of legs 50e in Lee are clearly not configured as set forth in claim 1 – that is, the pair of legs 50e of Lee separated by the angle D (see FIGs. 4-5 of Lee) are clearly not separated by the axis A shown in FIG. 1 of Lee. In addition, the pair of legs 50e are certainly not nominally parallel as set forth in claim 16. As shown in Lee, the legs 50e separated by the angle D may be described as being perpendicular with respect to one another – certainly not parallel.

A 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection requires that a single reference teach each and every element of the claimed invention. For at least any of the reasons set forth above, Lee is incapable of anticipating claim 1.

4. The indication that claims 10-15 and 9-20 are allowable is noted and appreciated.

5-6. The indication that claims 6, 8 and 9 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten to no longer depend on a rejected claim is noted and appreciated. However, it is respectfully submitted that rewriting claims 6, 8 and 9 is not required to secure their allowance, since claim 1 is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick J. O'Shea", written over a horizontal line.

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